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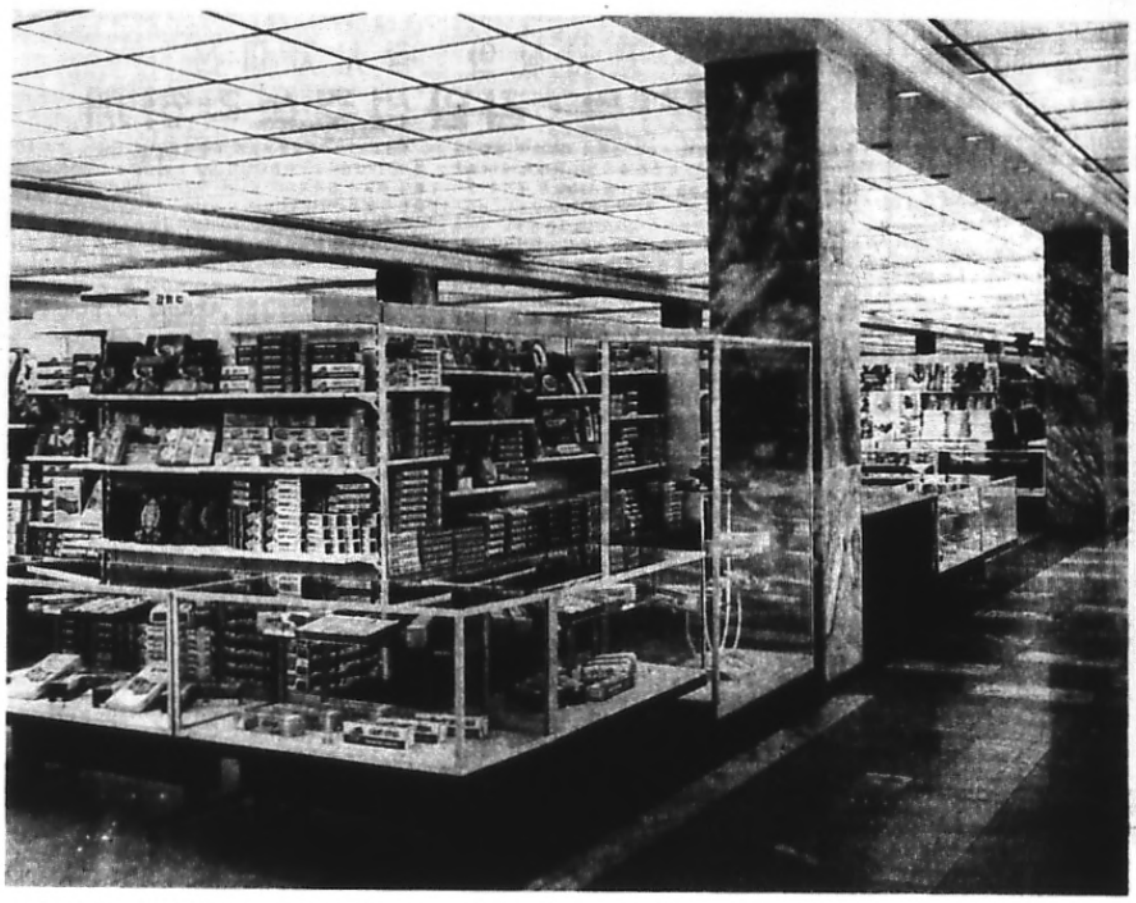
President Kim Il Sung Inspects Pyongyang Underground Shopping Center



President Kim Il Sung on Apr. 25 inspected the Pyongyang Underground Shopping Center which has been built recently.
The shopping center was built as commercial service center for the citizens of Pyongyang.
It has provincial counters of peculiar style, where varieties of good-quality goods produced in the provinces are on sale.
Those who accompanied the President were Premier Li Gun Mo, Secretary Kang Song San, former premier, and other party and state officials. (Rodong Sinmun, Apr. 29)

Presidential Greetings to PLO Chairman

President Kim Il Sung on May 3 sent a message of greetings to Mr. Yasser Arafat upon his reelection as chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Palestine Liberation Organization has further consolidated the unity and cohesion of its rank through the 18th Session of the Palestine National Council, the message said.

Expressing the belief that the Palestine people under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization will make a big stride with united strength in the struggle for restoring national rights including the right to self-determination and the right to build an independent state against imperialism and Israeli Zionists, the DPRK President wished Chairman Yasser Arafat success in his responsible work.

People's Army Fetes 55th Birthday

The Korean People's Army had the 55th anniversary of its founding on Apr. 25.

President Kim Il Sung on Apr. 27 visited unit No. 115 of the KPA and congratulated the officers and men of the People's Army on the occasion of its 55th birthday.

The DPRK President was accompanied by Mr. Kim Jong Il, Member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Member of the Military Commission of the WPK CC and Secretary of the WPK CC.

President Kim Il Sung was met on the spot by General O Guk Ryol, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK CC and chief of general staff of the KPA, KPA General Kim Gwang Jin, commanders of different arms and services, and other generals and officers of the KPA.

Present on the occasion were members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the WPK CC, secretaries of the WPK CC and vice premiers of the Administration Council.

Earlier on Apr. 24, a central meeting marking the 55th anniversary of the founding of the KPA was held at the February 8 House of Culture in Pyongyang. General O Guk Ryol made a report at the meeting.

Meanwhile, various events were held on the occasion of the KPA's 55th birthday, such as roundtable talks and recreation gatherings between armymen and civilians, exchanges of art performances and a poster exhibition.

Pyongyang-Moscow Pass. Train Comes into Operation

New international passenger train services opened on Apr. 27 between Pyongyang and Moscow.

The new international passenger trains arrive in Pyongyang and Moscow passing through the Tumangang and Hasan stations on the borders of the two countries.

The passenger trains leave Pyongyang and Moscow every Monday and arrive at their destinations Monday next week.

They leave Moscow and Pyongyang Wednesday and return to their countries Wednesday next week.

This means that there are two Pyongyang-Moscow international passenger train services every week.

The opening of the new international passenger train services between Pyongyang and Moscow will contribute to developing the Korean-Soviet friendship and providing conveniences of travellers increasing in number.

The first Pyongyang-Moscow international passenger train left Pyongyang Station at 17:30 on Apr. 27.

DPRK NOC Demands Earlier Lausanne Talks

A spokesman for the National Olympic Committee of the DPRK made public a statement on May 7 in connection with the issue of the fourth Lausanne joint meeting between the delegations of the International Olympic Committee and the national Olympic committees of the north and the south of Korea.

Pointing out that the Executive Committee of the International Olympic Committee and the delegation of the south Korean NOC held talks on Apr. 23 and announced that they agreed to hold the fourth Lausanne joint meeting between the delegations of the IOC and the national Olympic committees of the north and the south of Korea in mid-July this year, the statement said:

Nearly a year has passed since the third Lausanne joint meeting was held in June last year.

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DFRF-CPRF Joint Meet Held

A joint meeting of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland and the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland was held on Apr. 29 at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang.

The KCNA reported that the meeting discussed the matter of waging an "all-nation struggle against the domestic and foreign splittist forces which are rejecting the north-south dialogue and aggravating the tensions of the country."

Chon Gum Chol, director of the CPRF secretariat, said in a report at the meeting, "We do not have even the slightest intention to beg dialogues of those who turn their faces away from dialogues and detente and reject them," criticizing the south side's repeated rejection of the proposals advanced by the DPRK.

SR-71 Espionage Numbers 13 in April

The U.S. on Apr. 29 infiltrated the high-speed, high-altitude reconnaissance plane SR-71 deep into the sky above the territorial waters east of Kosong on the east coast of the DPRK at around 11 hours 11 minutes and committed aerial espionage, the KCNA reported.

Such aerial espionage numbered 13 cases in April, three cases more than it in March, it added.

DPRK President Awarded Hon. Medal & Hon. Citizenship of French & Belgian Cities

Two functions were held, one in France and the other in Belgium to award the honorary medal of Montreuil City, France and honorary citizenship of Riedekerk, Belgium, to President Kim Il Sung on his 75th birthday.

One was held at the Montreuil House of Culture, Montreuil City, France on Apr. 22.

The other was held in Riedekerk, Belgium on Apr. 23.

Speaking at the Montreuil function, the mayor said:

For the realization of the country's reunification, the greatest desire of the Korean people, President Kim Il Sung set forth the three principles for national reunification, advanced many reunification proposals and is conducting energetic activities for their realization.

He is exerting efforts to defend not only peace on the Korean Peninsula but also peace and security in the world.

Today the progressive people of the world highly estimate President Kim Il Sung who is dedicating himself entirely to the reunification of Korea and to peace for mankind.

Presidential Works Published Abroad

President Kim Il Sung's works were recently published in the USSR, China and other foreign countries on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

"Kim Il Sung's Selected Works" was brought out recently by the Chinese People's Publishing House.

The book contains works written by him in the period from 1980 to 1986.

They include "Report to the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea on the Work of the Central Committee" and "Historical Experience of Building the Workers' Party of Korea."

The Political Book Publishing House of the USSR brought out "Kim Il Sung's Selected Works."

Contained in it are 12 immortal classical works published by him in the period from 1984 to 1986, including "For the Complete Victory of Socialism," his policy speech at the First Session of the Eighth Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK.

In Tanzania, "Historical Experience of Building the Workers' Party of Korea," an immortal classical work of the President, was published by the Lisso Printing House of Tanzania, on Apr. 9.

Meanwhile, "For the Complete Victory of Socialism" was brought out in booklet form respectively by the Political Publishing House of Romania, the Communist Party Publishing House of Bulgaria, the Damascus Publishing House of Syria, Madagascar and the Grafica Europa Publishing House of Portugal on the occasion of his birthday.

In addition, the President's works which were recently published included "Kim Il Sung's Selected Works" by the Svoboda Publishing House of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, "Historical Experience of Building the Workers' Party of Korea" by the All India Indo-Korean Friendship Association and "For the Complete Victory of Socialism" by the Akhbar El Yom Publishing House of Egypt.

In Peru, a special issue of a bulletin was published by the Peru-Korea Institute of Culture and Friendship and the Peruvian Committee for Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea.

Seminars on Juche Idea & DPRK President's Works Held Abroad

Seminars on the Juche idea, classical works and revolutionary feats of President Kim Il Sung were recently held in different countries including France, Japan and Malta, on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

Briefly introduced here are seminars by region:

The 22nd National Scientific Seminar on the Juche Idea was held in Tokyo on May 2.

France

A European Regional Seminar on the Juche Idea on Global Peace and Independence was recently held in Paris.

Attending the seminar were many prominent professors and doctors, political and public figures from 16 countries and 4 international organizations, and members of the Juche idea study organizations.

Dr. Edmond Jouve, president of the Council of the European Society for the Study of the Juche Idea and professor at Paris University No. 1 of France, made an opening address at the seminar.

Since the founding of the European Society for the Study of the Juche Idea, the study and dissemination of the Juche idea have been developed in depth among broad political, public and academic figures in Europe, he said.

Prof. and Dr. Aldo Bernardini, councillor of the European Society for the Study of the Juche Idea and former president of Chieti University of Italy said in his report on the subject "The Juche Idea Is the Ideological and Theoretical Basis of Global Peace and Independence."

He said:

We must deeply study what is the main obstacle to the advance of history and how to overcome this, guided by the Juche idea which indicates the road of hewing the destiny of man.

The most urgent task facing the popular masses today in shaping the destiny of mankind is to avert a new world war, safeguard world peace and make the world independent.

The basic way of preventing a new world war and defending peace is to make the whole world independent.

All the progressive peoples of the world must actively contribute to the accomplishment of the honorable and worthy cause of making the whole world independent through an intensified struggle to make their countries independent according to the noble objective of the Juche idea.

Zimbabwe

A Zimbabwe National Seminar on the Juche Idea and Youth Work was recently sponsored in Harare by the Zimbabwean National Committee for the Study of the Juche Idea.

In his report under the headline "The Youth Should Vigorously Rise in the Building of a New Society under the Uplifted Banner of Chajusong," Mr. C. Ndhlovu, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Zimbabwe African National Union, said: The most urgent problem facing the world's progressive people and youth for Chajusong is to smash the imperialists' moves to unleash a new world war and preserve a durable world peace.

To this end, it is imperative to dynamically strive to make the whole world independent.

Japan

The 22nd National Scientific Seminar on the Juche Idea was held in Tokyo on May 2 under the co-sponsorship of the National Liaison Council of Societies for the Study of the Works of President Kim Il Sung and the Tokyo Practice Committee of the 22nd National Scientific Seminar on the Juche Idea.

The seminar was attended by delegates of Juche idea study organizations all over Japan, Japanese figures and people of broad strata, more than 800 in all.

Invited to the seminar were the Korean education and culture delegation visiting Japan and Pae Byong Du, vice chairman of the Central Standing Committee of Chongryun (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) and chairman of the Tokyo headquarters of Chongryun.

Other Countries

Seminars on "For the Complete Victory of Socialism", the policy speech of President Kim Il Sung, were held by the groups for the study of the Juche idea of the Kalkara and Beljabuja clubs of the Malta Labour Party, the U.N. Namibian University Committee for the Study of the Great Juche Idea of Comrade Kim Il Sung in Zambia, the U.N. Namibian University Committee for Supporting the Peaceful Reunification of Korea, the Group for the Study of the Juche Philosophy in Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe, and the Stockholm Group for the Study of the Juche Philosophy in Sweden.

A seminar on his work "Historical Experience of Building the Workers' Party of Korea" was sponsored by the Group for the Study of the Juche idea of the Paola Club of the Malta Labour Party, and a seminar on his work "For the Development of Agriculture in African Countries" by the Sierra Leonean Group for the Study of the Great Juche Philosophy.

Seminars on his ideological and theoretical activities were held by the Group for the Study of the Juche Idea of the Pugura Club of the Malta Labour Party and the Group for the Study of the Great Juche Idea of the Namibian Students in Sierra Leone and a seminar on his revolutionary history by the Dares-Salaam, Tanzania, Group for the Study of Kimilsungism.

51st Anniv. of ARF

The Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland (ARF) marked its 51st founding anniversary.

The association was the first standing organization of the anti-Japanese national united front in Korea by President Kim Il Sung on May 5, 1936, in the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

The founding of the ARF meant the birth of a true, Juche-type national united front, the first of its kind in the history of the protracted revolutionary struggle of the Korean people for national independence and sovereignty.

50th Anniv. of Newspaper Sogwang Marked

A central meeting was held on May 2 at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang to mark the 50th founding anniversary of the political newspaper Sogwang (May 3, 1937), the organ of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army which was founded and guided by President Kim Il Sung during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

30th Anniv. of Korean Publications Exim Co.

A meeting was held on Apr. 29 in Pyongyang to mark the 30th founding anniversary of the Korean Publications Export and Import Company (Apr. 1, 1957).

DPRK Making Progress in Economic Construction

The Korean working people are now advancing towards fulfilment of the third Seven-Year Plan as an ordinance was adopted by the Second Session of the Eighth Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK (Apr. 21-23) in accordance with the grand program of socialist economic construction unfolded by President Kim Il Sung in his historical policy speech.

This year is the first year of the third Seven-Year Plan (1987-1993). They are dashing forward to fulfil the plan more successfully.

The April plans were already overfulfilled as of Apr. 28 at many industrial establishments under various general bureaus and corporations including the extractive machine industry general bureau, the combined electric machine company and the Korean silk company.

Not only the Korean people but also the People's Army soldiers are participating in peaceful construction according to a step taken by the Supreme Command of the Korean People's Army and are performing feats in different domains of the national economy such as the construction of power stations, factories and reclamation of tideland.

Following are the major successes achieved recently in the economic construction:

People's Army Joins Econ. Construction

The construction of the Taechon Power Station is being accelerated at high speed by soldiers. They have more than doubled the speed of the building of the Panpyong dam, one of the main objects. They tamp above 8,300 cubic metres of concrete daily.

In the construction of the Sunchon Vinalon Complex with an annual capacity of 100,000 tons, too, the People's Army soldiers are registering remarkable achievements in the cardinal part of the project.

They have already assembled the bodies of two carbide ovens and built two nitro-lime kilns and are now assembling the turbine generator of the first aggregate in the final stage.

The armymen who came rushing to the sites of West Sea tideland construction in order to bring into effect the grand nature-remaking plan of the Workers' Party of Korea have steadily increased the construction speed since they carried out big blasts for preparatory construction.

Innovations are being effected by armymen in the construction of the Kwangbok Street in Pyongyang and many other objects.

The soldiers had built a number of monumental edifices in the past days. Thanks to their devoted efforts the construction of the Pyongyang Metro, the Pyongyang-Wonsan Express Highway, the February 8 Vinalon Complex and many other plants and the development of coal and ore mines and expansion of their capacity were carried out.

It must be noted that soldiers built the gigantic West Sea Barrage in a short period of five years, recording a new page in the history of construction.

Mirim, Ponghwa, Sunchon and Songchon barrages were also built by soldiers.

West Sea Barrage-Sinchon Area Channel Project Completed

The West Sea Barrage-Sinchon area channel project has been completed in the main and began to supply water to the fields of cooperative farms.

Along the 60 kilometre-long channel there are a 2,500 metre-long water tunnel, 14 water-pumping stations and hundreds of set-ups.

The completion of the channel project makes it possible to consolidate the irrigation system of South Hwanghae Province as a whole and greatly contribute to markedly increasing grain production and improving people's lives.

A ceremony for opening the West Sea Barrage-Sinchon area channel was held on the spot on Apr. 13.

The Supung Hydropower Station plays an important role in attaining the target to generate 100,000 million kWh of electricity in the period of the third Seven-Year Plan.

Silk-Yarn Production Sharply Goes Up

High quality silk yarn is produced in large quantity at silk reeling mills of Korea.

According to a leading official of the Korea Silk Company, the Hamhung Silk Reeling Mill fulfilled its monthly plan at 121 percent and the Songchon Silk Reeling Mill at 118 percent as of Apr. 28.

Signal innovations are effected in the fulfillment of the April plan also at the Pyongyang Silk Reeling Mill.

The workers of the mill have overfulfilled their yearly plans over the past 40-odd years.

The silk yarn production capacity has grown nearly 60 times and a large quantity of high quality silk yarn of scores of kinds has been produced every year in this period.

Silk yarn produced by the Korea Silk Company meets the domestic demand and is exported to foreign countries.

4th-Stage Project of Pyongyang Metro Finished

The fourth-stage project of the Pyongyang Metro has been completed.

With its commissioning, the subway line starting from Pulgunbyol Station has stretched via Ponghwa Station to Pyongchon district in the direction of Pyongyang railway station.

The completed subway stations are Yonggwang and Puhung stations.

They have been built in a peculiar style and method.

Yonggwang Station has two entrances.

It has been decorated by mural paintings and various pieces of art delineating the glory of Pyongyang.

On both sides of its wall are color mural mosaic 80 metres wide, picturing east Pyongyang with the Tower of Juche Idea as an axis on one side and central Pyongyang with the Grand People's Study House as an axis on the other side. This vividly shows the looks of prospering Pyongyang.

The platform is flanked by pillars representing torch from which searchlights stretch to starry sky and firecrackers are displayed to form various candle lights.

The mural mosaic of Puhung Station shows the economic development of the country.

The central part of the mosaic portrays workers, peasants, working intellectuals, youth and students and other strata of people closely rallied behind President Kim Il Sung. And both walls are decorated in delicate artistic representation by mural mosaic showing the development of industry and agriculture. The mural mosaics well show that the solid foundations of socialist independent national economy have been laid and thanks to their dynamic vitality all branches of the national economy have developed in good harmony and the nation's economy and people's lives are daily flourishing.

Sariwon Stadium Commissioned

The Sariwon Stadium has been commissioned.

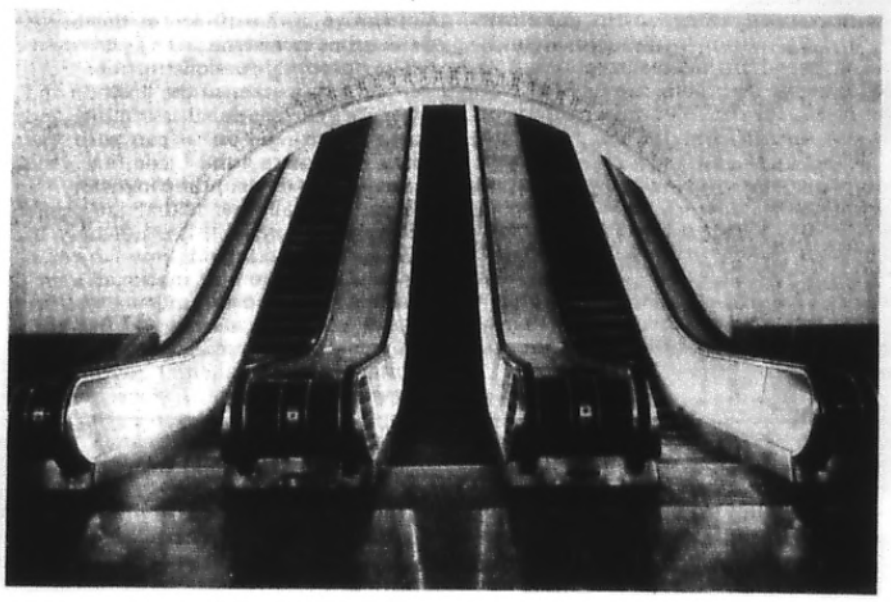
The stadium built in the city of culture with a port and canal is one more proud creature completed by Korean builders and helpers on the threshold of the auspicious April holiday.

The stadium has more than 40,000 seats, a mass display background stand of 40 stairs, an open-air court, 9 indoor training halls, indoor courts, public service facilities and cultural and welfare establishments.

International games of different sports events can be held simultaneously at the stadium.

The commissioning ceremony took place on the spot on Apr. 12.

The interior parts of Puhung Subway Station



An escalator in Yonggwang Subway Station

What Do Developments Following "Grave Decision" Show?: Rodong Sinmun

Rodong Sinmun, organ of the CC of the Workers' Party of Korea, in its signed commentary dated May 1 said that south Korea has been driven into a new political confusion after Chun Doo Hwan's "grave decision" on Apr. 13. It summarily said:

The south Korean rulers proclaimed the "crucial decision" for long-term office, taking advantage of the weakening of the opposition forces with the split of the "New Korea Democratic Party". But theirs was a mistaken "decision" made at a wrong moment.

The long-term office design promoted by force caused a greater turmoil within the south Korean ruling camp which is floundering in a political crisis and social disorder growing more serious.

Chun Doo Hwan is trying to gratify his ambition for prolonged power, come what may.

His oft-repeated talk about "peaceful transfer of power" and his "stepping down at the expiration of his tenure" was an empty promise to deceive public opinion from the beginning. If he had the intention to transfer "power" to another person when his term expires, he would not call a halt to constitutional debate or try to prolong the present ruling order by brandishing the fascist "constitution".

The repressive actions have been further intensified after the "crucial decision".

At present south Korea is virtually placed under a martial law state without the proclamation of an "emergency martial law".

While spreading the rumour about "southward invasion", the south Korean authorities refused under unjustifiable trite pretext all dialogues proposed by us to ease the tension and improve the north-south relations, and are inciting confrontation and rendering the situation strained.

All this is needed to the Chun junta for long-term office and extension of dictatorship.

The United States is the very one responsible for the grave situation in south Korea.

The U.S. was the very one who manipulated the Chun Doo Hwan's whimsical rope-walking from "defence of the constitution" to constitutional revision, and vice versa.

The Chun junta is advertising that the negotiation for "constitutional revision through agreement" would be resumed in 1989 or 1990 after the "transfer of power" and the Olympic Games.

Those who put a stop to the constitutional debate and seek the prolongation of their power are now promising the resumption of the negotiation for constitutional change after the extension of their power. It is a sheer lie.

The south Korean rulers must renounce their futile attempt to stay in power and step down without delay.

This is the only way of bringing the south Korean situation under control for the present.

S. Korean Fisher-Boat Found Spy Ship

PYONGYANG April 27 (KCNA) – The competent organ of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has carried out an investigation into the south Korean boat "Tongjin No. 27" which was apprehended by a naval patrol boat of the Korean People's Army on Jan. 15 when it illegally intruded deep into the territorial waters of the West Sea of our country.

In the course of the investigation "chief fisherman" Choe Jong Sok and "skipper" Kim Sun Gun of the boat "Tongjin No. 27" belonging to the Ryosu Tongjin Fishing Company confessed that they are hired spies who have committed hostile espionage acts after intruding deep into the territorial waters of the northern half of the Republic.

Choe Jong Sok, a spy absorbed by the south Korean puppet Security Planning Board early in 1985, stated as follows about the orders he received from it:

Firstly, to spy out the construction of sports facilities for the '88 Olympiad, the conditions of People's Army Forces and the construction of the Kumgangsan Power Station by taking advantage of inspecting Pyongyang and other places after entering the north.

Secondly, to detect the manoeuvrability of the KPA naval vessels in the waters north of Paekryong Island and deployment of the armed forces along the coastal line, Thirdly, to detect the structure of the West Sea Barrage and its transit capacity.

Kim Sun Gun who worked hand in glove with Choe Jong Sok after being drawn into his fold admitted that he intruded deep into the territorial waters of the northern half of the Republic for espionage purpose against the north.

He confessed:

After intruding deep into the territorial waters of the north, I spied out the manoeuvrability of the KPA naval vessels and patrol boats and reported it to Choe Jong Sok as he demanded. Even after being captured by the KPA patrol boat, I, as dictated by him, tried to obtain as many espionage data as possible by taking advantage of the hospitality of the authorities in the north, making it appear that the boat got in distress due to the trouble of the wireless set and a storm.

Confessing to their espionage acts, spies Choe Jong Sok and Kim Sun Gun said they should be dealt with by the law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Washington Must Take Practical Step for Detente in Korea

—Rodong Sinmun Commentary—

PYONGYANG April 25 (KCNA) – Rodong Sinmun today points out that the U.S. authorities are forging a public opinion to make it appear as if they had advanced any proposal for the relaxation of tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

The daily in a signed commentary says:

On Apr. 17 Japanese papers alleged that during his recent visit to China U.S. State Secretary Shultz advanced a proposal for the relaxation of tensions, such as "taking a step for the creation of trust in the Demilitarized Zone and changing the form of the annual U.S.-south Korea joint military exercises".

It is evident to everyone that this report was based on utterances of the top U.S. authorities. If not so, how can such groundless report be spread?

The report spread by the United States cannot be considered otherwise than a crafty trick to delude public opinion, veil its unjust stand on the question of the Korea-U.S. relations and create a public opinion unfavourable to us.

Up to this day, a month after the Asian tour of Shultz, we have not received a proposal with such contents from the United States.

We make it clear that it is absolutely untrue that the United States has advanced such proposal.

The United States must stop juggling with words and completely discontinue the "Team Spirit" joint military rehearsal itself for attacking us.

Facts tell that the United States attaches greater importance to words and propaganda than action and practice in the question of Korea-U.S. dialogue and detente on the Korean Peninsula.

World public opinion considers that the United States is only paying lipservice to a "step for relaxation" toward us but, in actuality, it is scheming to maintain the "status quo" on the Korean Peninsula and create an atmosphere of "cross recognition" and make "two Korea" by using its words and propaganda.

If the United States is truly interested in detente and peace on the Korean Peninsula, it must take a practical step to this end without delay.

Exiled S. Korean Politicians Rap Chun's Long-term Office Bid

The Consultative Council of Former South Korean Politicians in the North for the Promotion of Peaceful Reunification issued a white paper on Apr. 25 denouncing the Chun Doo Hwan's attempt to realize "constitutional revision seeking a parliamentary-cabinet system" and long-term office under the present fascist "constitution" at the instigation of the U.S.

The white paper says the scheme of the south Korean Democratic Justice Party for deceptive "constitutional revision to establish a parliamentary-cabinet system" is one for the prolongation of the present military fascist dictatorial system.

According to the white paper, under the "parliamentary-cabinet system" the president is obligated to nominate as a candidate for the prime minister a person who is recommended by the No. 1 party occupying more than half of the seats in the national assembly and it elects him by the consent of more than half of the registered national assemblymen.

In the "proposal for constitutional revision," all the ruling power and administrative authority are in the hands of the prime minister.

The "proposal for constitutional revision" largely weakened the position and power of the national assembly and court, which are on a par with the prime minister, and codified the predominance of the prime minister.

This, after all, means that the prime minister is allowed by law not only to maintain his dictatorship, not subjected to any "inspection of national administration" and "non-confidence" of the national assembly during its five-year term but also to remain in power indefinitely by the method of continuously holding premiership since there is no provision about the term of the prime minister.

This "proposal for constitutional revision" trumped up by the DJP under the manipulation of the U.S. is practically little different in essence from the present military fascist dictatorial system of Chun Doo Hwan as it only changed the name of the present president dictatorial system through the "indirect presidential election" by the paid electoral college to that of the prime minister dictatorial system through the "indirect election" by the national assembly.

In putting forward the "proposal for constitutional revision to establish a parliamentary-cabinet system," unacceptable to anyone, the U.S. and the Chun junta seek a criminal design to shift the blame for rupture of an "agreed constitutional revision" onto the opposition parties and democratic forces and keep, in actuality, the present military fascist dictatorship through "indirect presidential election" under the present constitution.

Referring to the long-term office scheme of the Chun Doo Hwan group under the present fascist "constitution," the white paper says:

Under the manipulation of the U.S. Chun Doo Hwan on Apr. 13, as soon as the New Korea Democratic Party was disrupted, announced a "grave decision" to "elect the electoral college and the president within this year under the present constitution and transfer of power in February next year and resume the debate on constitutional revision after hosting the Olympics".

This was based on their original script.

The Chun's April 13 decision is virtually an "April 13 coup d'etat". This is aimed to block the opposition forces' movement for a "constitutional revision to establish direct presidential election system" under the pretext of postponing the debate on the ruling party's "constitutional revision proposal for parliamentary-cabinet system" after the '88 Olympics, realize the DJP's reassumption of power by electing the puppet president with a seven year term from 1988 to 1995 according to the "indirect presidential election system" under the present fascist constitution and prolong the present military fascist dictatorial system.

Facts clearly show that although the U.S. and the south Korean authorities are more vociferously blowing the trumpet of "peaceful change of power" in February next year, they intend to maintain the present military fascist dictatorial system through the reassumption of power under the present fascist constitution after appeasing the opposition parties with the DJP's "proposal for constitutional revision for parliamentary-cabinet system," which veiled the present dictatorship as a prime minister dictatorship.

Chun's Apr. 13 "Decision" Shakes S. Korea

Massive protest actions by the south Korean people against Chun's "April 13 decision" to shelve constitutional debate until after the Olympics are gaining further momentum as the seventh anniversary of the May 17 Kwangju Popular Uprising is just around the corner. The anti-Chun struggles are expanding from students, professors, religionists and the newly formed opposition party to broader sections of society. Here is a roundup of the recent struggles:

New Party Pledges Clear-cut, Stubborn Struggle

Kim Young Sam, president of the newly founded Reunification Democratic Party said on May 1 in his inaugural speech, "Our party will stage clear-cut, strong democratic struggles and seek a substantial dialogue" with the ruling camp to restore a direct presidential election system to realize a genuine democracy.

"Should the present government carry out its political timetable according to its April 13 decision (to shelve constitutional change until after the Olympics), there is no choice for us but to mount an all-out struggle to overthrow the regime," he said.

The two-hour inaugural convention was held at the Hungsadan auditorium in Seoul and the convention delegates adopted an eight-point resolution calling for the withdrawal of the April 13 decision, the abolition of the Basic Press Law and the release of political prioners.

A clause in the RDP's platform, of which the Chun junta is now tring to take advantage, states that national reunification should be the foremost national task which should be transcend political ideology or system.

In his speech Kim said, "The Seoul Olympics will be no more than a reproduction of the Berlin Olympics held under the Nazi regime unless a genuine democracy is established," in view of Chun's outright crackdown upon the democratic forces and of his unilateral refusal of constitutional debate.

He declared that the RDP will not participate in a presidential election under the present electoral college system, and said that instead it will launch a non-violent, nationwide campaign to boycott such an election.

"The present electoral college system denies the people their rights to freely choose a government. Under this ystem, the people play their role only as an adjunct," he added.

Kim also said, "The April 13 decision to postpone constitutional reform will bring misfortune not only to the present government but also to the entire nation. I strongly urge that the decision be rescinded and substantial talks begin immediately to resolve the current political difficulties."

He made clear the RDP's determination to launch democratization struggles both in and out of the national assembly, and said, "When the rules are unfair, we cannot afford to remain forever on the arena set up by the ruling camp."

Religionists' Hunger Strikes

Hundreds of Catholic priests and Protestant ministers have staged or are now staging hunger-strikes or sit-ins across south Korea, protesting Chun Doo Hwan's refusal to debate constitutional change.

They charge that Chun's April 13 decision is "another coup" aimed at prolonging the military dictatorship. A total of 249 believers and priests were conducting fasting prayers across south Korea as of May 4, according to an announcement of south Korea's Catholic Council for Peace and Justice.

Nineteen Catholic priests in the southern provincial city of Kwangju, the scene of a bloody massacre in 1980, ended a nine-day fast on Apr. 29, declaring that "We got our message across."

In Seoul, 62 Catholic priests ended an eight-day hunger-strike on May 4 after a prayer for justice and peace. In the statement issued at the end of the fast they said, "Our fasting prayer was the expression of our firm determination to take a step forward toward democratization by expressing our ardent love for our nation in the darkness of the present era and was also a wholehearted appeal to the nation."

In the southern port city of Pusan 26 priests launched a fast on May 3 for an indefinite period and in Taejon 25 priests also entered a protest fast against the shelving of the constitutional revision.

In Inchon, 36 priests were waging their fifth day fast on May 1.

In Andong, 11 priests also started an indefinite hunger strike on Apr. 29 and 20 Catholic priests began a fast the same day in Wonju, a southern provincial capital.

Meanwhile, four Buddhist organizations including the National Sangha Committee to Realize a Paradise said on Apr. 30 in their joint statement, "The present regime should withdraw the April 13 step aimed at defending the present constitution and immediately stop the suppression of violence to and vicious maneuvers against all the democratic forces."

730-odd Professors Join Anti-Chun Statement

As of May 7, the number of those professors who signed statements to demand the withdrawal of Chun's April 13 decision reached more than 730 at 18 universities and colleges across south Korea.

As many as 122 professors at Seoul National University in their joint statement declared that since both the opposition party and the government authorities have recognized an anti-democratic nature of the present constitution and have repeatedly made clear their intention to reform it, it is desirable that constitutional change be realized as early as possible, and said, "Peaceful transfer of power should also be carried out under a democratic constitution and a fair election law."

Stressing that the April 13 decision has brought a tremendous discouragement to the nation, they said that sudden change in the government's attitude is not only unconvincing but also may lead the present political situation to a critical point."

"We declare that democratization and development of our fatherland which the entire nation aspires after cannot be attained without a constitutional amendment," said the SNU professors.

The same views were shared by the statements issued by other professors.

More than 730 professors who signed the statements include: 28 at Sogang Univ., 43 at Sung Kyun Kwan Univ., 60 at Chonnam Univ., 17 at Seoul City Univ., 42 at Hankuk Theological Seminary, 33 at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies.

Hundreds of Catholic students shouting "Down with dictatorship" clash with riot police outside Seoul's Myongdong Cathedral on May 4. The students demonstrated against the junta of Chun Doo Hwan after attending a special mass for democracy called by 62 Catholic priests who ended a week-long hunger strike. (Reuter)

Raging Students

In the wake of the student movement which flared up on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the April 19 Student Uprising, which toppled Syngman Rhee regime in 1960, students' protest actions are showing a sign of gaining further momentum to mark the May 17 Kwangju Popular Uprising, in which more than 2,000 citizens are said to have been killed by Chun-led paratroopers in 1980.

Major student protests follow:

Some 3,000 students on May 6 held demonstrations at 16 universities including Chosun University in Kwangju and Hanyang University in Kyonggi Province.

On May 5, some 3,000 youth marched Seoul streets at night shouting "Down with the military dictatorship", leading a night lantern procession celebrating Buddha's birthday.

On Apr. 30, some 6,500 students held demonstrations and sit-ins across south Korea, shouting various campus and political demands. (Some 1,000 Hanyang University students held a rally and 300 of them occupied school facilities including the president's room)

On Apr. 28, more than 4,400 students from 18 universities in Seoul and other provincial cities held campus rallies and clashed with police.

On Apr. 28 about 400 SNU students held a memorial service for the two democracy martyrs and 200 of them exchanged volleys of teargas and stones with riot police.

On Apr. 27, some 2,000 Seoul National University students held the first anniversary of the two students who burnt themselves to death, demading democratization, and more than 600 of them staged an all-night sit-in at the library. About 300 students harshly clashed with riot police at the main gate when they tried to get out of the campus, shouting "Guarantee a peaceful demonstration."

On Apr. 24, some 70 Cheju College students continued the second-day all-night sit-in to protest against the authorities disciplinary measures.

Other Dissident Organizations

The Writers Council for Practice of Freedom on May 1 issued a statement calling for an end to the repressive measure against those who signed a statement demanding release of political prisoners.

Fifteen members of the Democratic Fellowship on Apr. 29 also issued a statement urging the Chun junta to stop repressive measures against democratic figures and the new party."

Thirty-five south Korean Protestant ministers with their hair cropped, shout on May 6 slogans demanding Chun Doo Hwan to withdraw his decision last month to shelve constitutional reform process until after the Olympics. The banner behind them says they shaved their hair to back their demands for the resignation of military dictatorship. (Reuter)

Some 200 Lee Taek Hee "supporters" allegedly wirepulled by the intelligence agencies storm the opposition NKDP headquarters and occupy the office on Apr. 4 in an attempt to break up the party. (Dong-A Ilbo, Apr. 4)

Workshop on Korean Issue Held in Tokyo

Here are summaries of the speeches made by Dr. Gavan McCormack, professor of history, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia and Mr. Parris H. Chang, professor of department of political science, Pennsylvania State University at the "Workshop on Korean Issue: Relaxation of Tensions & N-S Dialogue," which was held on Apr. 18 in Tokyo, Japan.

Present at the symposium were Mrs. F.F. Vialielmo, critic; Mr. Hattori Manabu, professor at Rikkyo University, Japan; Mr. Den Hideo, member of the House of Councillors, Japan; prominent experts and specialists on the Korean affairs.

The speakers put unanimous emphasis on the need of resumption of N-S dialogue, analyzing the present situation on the Korean Peninsula.

The Workshop on Korean Issue held in Tokyo on Apr. 18, which was attended by some 70 Japanese and foreigners living in Japan as well as Koreans in Tokyo.

Eleven Basic Theses on the Korean Problem

Dr. Gavan McCormack

What I have done in this paper is to try to locate Korea within the broad frames of meaning which underlie current phenomena.

I have organized (and greatly compressed) my remarks into a set of eleven basic theses, of which the first eight are general historical propositions and the last three are basically a resume of the current problem, especially in its Cold War dimension.

1. Korea is country which has enjoyed 1,300 years of unified history and refined culture, marked throughout by a singular-non-military, even anti-military bias. From well-defined historical frontiers it has fought fiercely against external aggressors, while never invading or threatening other countries. Towards the end of the Yi dynasty (in the early 20th century) the nation's armed forces amounted to a mere 7,000 men; now, after forty years of Japanese colonialism and fourty years of Cold War, there are over one million men under arms. Korea is a major symbol of the 20th century development of militarization, and of the social and political costs it exacts.

2. Korea suffered terribly from the Japanese occupation of 1910-1945, which entailed not only depravation and exploitation of its resources and the enslavement and dislocation of its people but also assault on its culture and history, and even on its language. Japan's final crime was to deflect onto Korea a major part of the violence accompanying defeat in war by delaying acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration and thereby precipitating a Soviet-American scramble for Korea; Japan's political and territorial integrity was maintained while Korea's was sacrificed as a result. A Korean friend recently summed this up by saying that, while in Europe France was saved and Germany (the enemy) divided, in Asia Korea was divided and Japan (the enemy) saved.

3. After 1945, while Japan was seen by the occupation forces as an enemy, and democratization imperative to destroy the feudal roots of its militarism, thus ensuring a 'benevolent' occupation. Korea was seen by contrast as the front line of confrontation with the Soviet Union, where social and political reform might create instability and weaken the anti-Soviet strategic posture. While Japan enjoyed land reform, *zaibatsu* dissolution, and a radical democratic constitution, in Korea nationalists and democrats were drowned in a sea of bloody repression by US occupation forces; a police state was constructed around pro-Japanese collaborator and reactionary forces, human rights were systematically violated and torture was endemic. As the head of the Australian diplomatic mission in Tokyo, Mr Patrick Shaw, reported to his government from Seoul on 11 November 1947:

"Real power was apparently in the hands of the ruthless police force which works at the direction of the American G.H.Q. and Syngman Rhee and Kim Koo... Korean prisons are now fuller of political prisoners than under Japanese rule. The torture and murder of the political enemies of the extreme right is apparently an accepted and commonplace thing."

When this regime was in place the United Nations was summoned, in 1947-48, to rubber-stamp the new state as the Republic of Korea.

4. By 1948, two Korean states, a revolutionary and nationalist one inheriting the traditions of anti-Japanese resistance and mediating the revolutionary social aspirations of the people in the North (whatever distortions may have marred that expression in practice) and an anti-nationalist and counter-revolutionary one in the South. From 1948 the contradiction between these two systems was so severe that eventual war between them, to settle the issue of which embodies the legitimate national aspirations of the Korean people, was an inevitable as it had been 200 years ago between the opposing American systems of the Union and the Confederacy.

5. In the War of 1950-53, three million people died, the country was laid waste, and the people turned into a nation of refugees. The UN was mobilized by the then-dominant US to provide a cloak of legitimacy for an invasion that was in direct violation of the UN Charter forbidding intervention in civil or revolutionary disputes. This was the most disgraceful episode in the history of the UN. The War was fought to a stalemate; to this day there is no peace treaty.

6. In South Korea since the end of the War in 1953 the state system has been changed four times, either by popular revolutionary struggle (1960) or by military coup d'etat or fiat. (1961, 1971, 1980). Despite the changes from the First to the Fifth Republic, much remains unchanged. The Fifth Republic began in 1980 with the massacre of between 200 (the official figure) and 2,000 (the unofficial figure) citizens of Kwangju, and since then the catalogue of crimes committed by the state against its people has grown. Had this been a Communist state there is no doubt it would have been denounced as a pariah by Western governments and by the media; as an "ally" its crimes are passed over. A partial listing of those crimes must include the arrest and imprisonment of clergymen, poets, journalists, lawyers and students, highlighted by the sex torture of a woman student in October 1985, the torture-murder of a (male) Seoul National University student (Pak Jong Chol) in January 1987, persistent, violent assault on opposition or democratic political assemblies, blatant political censorship of the media (and imprisonment of journalists bold enough to expose it), and forced dissolution of labour or democratic assemblies (especially Mintongryun in October 1986). In a notably symbolic act, police were introduced into the National Assembly late in 1986 to arrest a representative who had called for a policy of national reconciliation to be given precedence over anti-communism. The response of the people to this situation has been that characteristic of a people without power or any other means to express themselves but committed to non-violence: hunger strikes, five political suicides in 1986, and a multi-faceted and heroic struggle to assert human dignity. To a degree paralleled in few, if any, other countries, the struggle for human emancipation is today concentrated in South Korea. One man whose name should be a byword among humanists and democrats throughout the world (and no doubt one day will be) is Soh Joon-Sik, held now for ten years in gaol since the completion of a seven year sentence. He is in prison today solely because he refuses to recognize the legitimacy of the state which sentenced him and he refuses to 'repent'. His 'crime', taken directly from the statute books of fascist Japan, is to persist in thinking 'dangerous thoughts'.

7. In 1987, as in the late 1940s, the ROK is a dependent and subordinate territory of the US in the most significant ways, especially in its being locked into a treaty relationship by which its armed forces are commanded by the US, and it is integrated into the US nuclear structure in a way which threatens its people fundamentally. It is of great importance to the US as a country happy to host massive war games, and the current "Team Spirit" is so massive that it counts as the largest military manoeuvres ever held anywhere.

8. North Korea in 1987, as in the late 1940s, is an independent country pursuing its own path, a path many do not like but which is indubitably determined by factors internal to it. Since its inception it has faced the concentrated pressures of diplomatic isolation, political and economic pressure Korean political practice must take note of the distorting effects of these pressures of the world hegemon against a small country. The July 1985 remarks of President Reagan describing North Korea as an outlaw state (along with Cuba, Nicaragua, Libya, and Iran) is a measure of the depth of this hostility. Those remarks were followed by open US invasion of Libya and massive indirect aggression against Nicaragua; it is clear that North Korea remains at the top of the US 'hit list'. Till the extraordinary pressure of US hostility is eased it is unrealistic to expect any significant internal liberalization within North Korean poltical structures.

9. The problem of both Koreas—and therefore the Korean problem—is rooted in the relationships of each and of the Korean whole with the United States. Partly that means also in Superpower Cold War rivalries, but, given the known independence of North Korea and the enormous preponderance of US power in the South, the reality is one of acute imbalance between the Superpowers and a high degree of US hegemony. Essentially, the forty years of Japanese hegemony have been followed by forty-two years of US hegemony. Responsibility for a solution to the problem therefore rests heavily with the US. Yet at the same time the strategic location of Korea, and the size, expertise, and relative cheapness of the ROK military, make it likely that the US will continue to defend the current system against any perceived "threats to stability". Korean division and the Cold War are mutually supporting parts of a single system.

(Continued on page 7)

People-to-People Contact Important

Prof. Parris H. Chang

If we look at international conflicts and crisis in the world today, some are local or regional in nature, but the one in Korea is global in nature.

The U.S. has a treaty relationship with south Korea and has stationed some 40,000 troops there. On the other hand, the DPRK has treaty relations with both the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union.

So a war in that area would not only be a local war but would inevitably become global in nature.

Japan is also very involved. Although it is no longer a major military power it looks upon the defence of south Korea as an integral part of its own national security.

This was illustrated in a joint communique issued in 1969 by President Nixon and Prime Minister Sato, which stated that the security of south Korea was crucial to Japan's interests.

The U.S. does not want a drastic shift in the balance of power and in this sense it does not want a war in Korea.

However, the U.S. has exaggerated the threat of a "DPRK invasion," and from time to time there have been attempts by the south to use military action against the north.

In the last decade China has embarked on a course of economic modernization and Chinese leaders have on many occasions stated that they want a peaceful international environment. Not war.

In my opinion, the Soviet Union does not want war, either.

None of the interested powers want a major shift in the balance of power in that part of the world.

On the other hand, U.S. relations with the DPRK have been undergoing a very sober change and attitudes towards the DPRK have shifted somewhat.

During the period of the Carter administration U.S. troop withdrawal was proposed. However, this was not put into effect. It was during the late 70s that the U.S. presented the idea of cross recognition.

However, the DPRK regarded this proposal as an attempt to perpetuate the division of Korea. It did represent, however, a shift in the U.S. attitude towards the DPRK. During this period the DPRK also proposed the holding of tripartite talks.

The U.S. began to reconsider its policy towards the DPRK and in this regard China played a very active and constructive role.

What is the most important reason for the recent change in America's posture towards the DPRK?

First of all, the U.S. considered the forthcoming leadership changes in south Korea and the Seoul Olympic Games in 1988 as important reasons to reinforce stability in the Korean Peninsula.

The U.S. and the DPRK have been having some kinds of contact.

The U.S. has considered the DPRK's proposals made at the end of 1986 and at the beginning of this year as very constructive and different from past proposals.

As a result, the U.S. informed south Korea that it was time to really consider the proposals and open up north-south dialogue.

After Secretary of State Shultz visited China and informed Chinese leaders of this U.S. situation, the DPRK issued a statement welcoming this American posture.

I suppose that by this time U.S. and DPRK officials have met in a number of cities. I think this is a very encouraging sign because if the nations could not talk and communicate directly with each other many misunderstandings are bound to happen.

Up until now there has been a great deal of ignorance in the U.S. concerning the DPRK as there was very little contact between the two countries.

In the past, in my writings, I have proposed that the U.S. ought to open up and allow people-to-people contacts.

Bronze Relics of Koryo Dynasty Found in DPRK

Bronze relics in the period of the Koryo dynasty were recently found in Komsan-ri, Sukchon County, South Pyongan Province.

Forty pieces of bronze relics – 23 bronze bowls, 8 lids and 9 bronze spoons – were found buried in a hollow 80 centimetres in diameter and 70 centimetres in depth.

Bronze bowls were cast as thin as a sheet of paper below 0.5 centimetres thick and polished well. The base was separately cast 1-1.5 centimetres high and stuck fast by nails.

The end of spoon handles was turned down, symbolic of those in the period of the Koryo dynasty. The end of handles was made like swallow tails and carved with delicate patterns. The technology and dexterity of casting bronze as thin as a sheet of paper and making it refined clearly show the skill of people and the excellent development of culture in the Koryo dynasty. In view of the records in the Koryo dynasty, the unearthed bronze relics are recognized as those of the 12th-13th century when many bronze vessels were made and used.

Cave of Old Stone Age Unearthed

A group of researchers into the history of human evolution and development at Kim Il Sung University recently discovered relics of a cave dating back to the old stone age in Ryonggok-ri, Sangwon County of Pyongyang.

The cave 12 kilometres from Sangwon-up is a natural cave of calcareous rock; it is situated halfway up a cliff 20 metres above the bottom of the extant river.

The research group discovered many valuable remains and relics in the cave in the course of survey and excavation.

The cave revealed its original shape when a huge amount of earth was removed. The accumulation of the remains consists of many layers whose total depth is about 21 metres.

Unearthed in the cave were 12 fire spots, 86 pieces of relics of the paleolithic age, 5 pieces of relics of the neolithic age, 31 pieces of human fossils and more than 8,200 pieces of various animal fossils including the leg bones of a rhinoceros in which a cut by a stone implement is vivid, and singed bones.

Not so often have so many relics been found along with many human fossils from the remains of a cave.

Among the human fossils unearthed this time is a full-length form of head bones, which is strongly characteristic of primitiveness in all aspects compared with that of contemporary man's.

Animals found in the cave are of 24 species including microtus epiratticeps young, pitimys simplicidens young, badgers, fox, wolf, tiger, great bear, big rhinoceros, wild boar, water-deer, deer and nemorhaedus goral hardwicke. And four species such as mud snail, unio douglasiae griffith et pidgeon, lanceolaria grayaha (heude) and lamprotula bazini heude which live in the river or marshes were found along with animal fossils.

Besides, the ginkgo, tsuga, dawn redwood, magnolia and liquidambar formosana and other plant species were found in the cave.

DPRK Athletes Get Good Records at Int'l Sports Games

Gymnastics

• Korean Gymnast Kim Chol Nam bagged gold with 19.50 points in the horizontal bar at the International Gymnastic Tournament for the "Moscow News" Prize held in Moscow from Mar. 27 to 29.

• Korean gymnasts Li Chol Hon and Kim Chol Nam bagged gold medals respectively with 19.40 points in the parallel bars and with 19.55 points in the horizontal bars at the "Leningrad 87" International Gymnastic Tournament held in the Soviet Union from Mar. 31 to Apr. 2.

• Korean girl Choe Gyong Hui took bronze in the floor exercise with 19.45 points.

Korean gymnast Paek Il Su finished first in pommel horse, Song Chang Nam second in floor exercise and Chu Ryong Min third in horizontal bar at the International Gymnastic Tournament of "Master Player-Grade" held in Kottbus, the German Democratic Republic, from Apr. 10 to 12.

Table Tennis

DPRK paddlers made a clean sweep of golds in individual and team matches at the 2nd Damascus International Table Tennis Tournament held in Syria over Mar. 25-30.

Marathon

The International Marathon Race for "Mangyongdae Prize" was held on Apr. 25 in Pyongyang.

The race was divided into professional and amateur groups.

Competing in the professional race were Korean, GDR, Romanian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Chinese, Czechoslovak and Soviet teams.

Working people and school youth and children took part in the amateur race.

Host men's and women's teams held all the first six places.

Junior Figure Skating

Korean girl Kim Song Suk came first in totals, first in short event, first in free event and second in compulsory event, at the International Junior Figure Skating Tournament for "Stroitelnaya Gazeta" prize held in the Soviet Union from Apr. 15 to 19.

Boxing

Korean boxer Li Myong Il came first in the 57 kg class at the 16th International Boxing Tournament for "Gold Girdle" which was held in Bucharest.

Meet of Weightlifting Feds. of Socialist Countries Held in Pyongyang

A meeting of representatives of weightlifting federations of socialist countries was held in Pyongyang over Apr. 7-8.

The meeting was attended by Secretary General of the International Weightlifting Federation Tamas Ajan and delegations of the GDR, Romania, Bulgaria and the DPRK, Czechoslovak and Cuban delegates, Polish delegation, Soviet delegate and Hungarian delegation.

Exchanged there were achievements and experiences gained in the past by the weightlifting federations of socialist countries and opinions favourable to each other.

The meeting marked an important occasion in raising the technical standard of weightlifters of socialist countries, further developing the work of the international weightlifting federation and strengthening mutual cooperation, friendship and unity.

DPRK Lifters Win 16 Medals at Int'l Competitions Held in Japan

Li Hi Bong established a new Asian record total of 322.5kg to capture the gold medal (left) and Chon Chol Ho came third in the jerk and the snatch in the 65.5 kg class (right).

DPRK lifters, who participated in the 19th International Weightlifting Championships held in Saitama Prefecture, Japan, from Apr. 17 to 19, won 16 medals and set 3 new Asian records.

Kim Yong Su who attended in the 60kg class swept the 3 gold medals with a total lift of 292.5 kg which was a new Asian record.

Li Hi Bong set a new Asian record by hoisting 140 kg in the snatch and 182.5 kg in the clean and jerk to capture a gold medal. He also established a new Asian record in the jerk.

Chon Chol Ho lifted 297.5 kg in the total to come third place in the 60 kg class.

Pak Ui Myong who attended such an international championship for the first time placed second with a 330 kg total.

Chang Je Hwan finished third in the snatch in the 60 kg class.

Han Chung Ho bagged a silver in the jerk in the 52 kg class.

Li Jae Son and Kim Jong Nam also placed second in the snatch and third in the jerk in the 56 kg class.

In all the DPRK lifters won 6 gold medals, 4 silver medals and 6 bronze medals at the championships.

The championships were attended by more than forty lifters from 10 countries who vied with each other for prizes.

* * *

Introduced here is an impressive meeting between a weightlifter of the DPRK and his grandfather and relatives in Japan.

The DPRK lifter, Pak Ui Myong, 19, who placed second in the total in the 75kg class at the 19th Asian International Weightlifting Championships, met his grandfather and relatives in Japan for the first time.

His father returned to the homeland from Japan in 1962.

Pak Ui Myong said, "I had a complex feeling when I came to Japan where my father had been living." He went on: "But now I am very happy to gain satisfactory results at the championships before them."

His grandfather and relatives were very satisfied with his results, watching him with a beating heart.

After the games, he had a pleasant time with his grandfather and relatives, as they told each other about their families.

It is not so rarely recently that those who returned to the fatherland come to Japan as representatives of the DPRK and meet their family and relatives.

Amongst the representative of the DPRK who took an active part at the international championships, are many repartriates from Japan to their homeland or their children.

Pak Ui Myong met his grandfather and a relative living in Japan.

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10. The fabric of the US system within which the Korean problem is enmeshed is an increasingly violent and lawless one. The US has shown by its defiance of the jurisdiction of the World Court (on Nicaragua), its defiance of international law and the United Nations (in invading Libya), and its sponsorship of terrorism on a massive scale in Latin America and the Middle East, either directly or through surrogates, that as its capacity to exercise hegemonic power through legal, economic, or 'soft means' diminishes (and as the economic base of that power is eroded), it will resort to hard, even terroristic, methods. The massacre of the citizens of Kwangju in South Korea occurred in the same month as the massacre of the people of the Rio Sumpul in El Salvador, both simultaneous revelations of the character of the same hegemonic system at different points of its periphery.

11. Korea was from the outset a product and a victim of the Cold War system, its division and militarization predating the division and militarization of Europe. As the Cold War structure enters a crisis phase, the crisis is bound to be expressed in an acute form in Korea. Although the right of the Korean people to democracy, justice, and basic civil and political rights, above all their right to settle their national question without outside interference, is absolute, in the 1980's as in the 1940's those rights remain unrealized because they seem to contradict the strategic priorities of the world hegemon. While the system we live within rests on the denial of such rights to the people of Korea (and elsewhere), we all share responsibility for it. The sycophancy of the small and medium powers matches and complements the arrogance of the great in a seamless web; we are all parts of that web, sharing responsibility for it.

Now in the late 1980's, as in the late 1940's, the Korean problem is moving towards a new and critical phase. This time we must ensure that the path leads not to war but to peace and justice.

Ex-S. Korean FM Notifies Reagan of Waiver of His U.S. Citizenship

The former south Korean foreign minister and army corps commander who is now in the DPRK notified U.S. President Ronald Reagan of his waiver of the U.S. citizenship in his letter to the U.S. president dated Feb. 28.

Choe Dok Sin, who had commanded south Korean troops in the Viet Nam War and later served as foreign minister under the Park Chung Hee regime, defected to the United States in 1975. In September last year, he abandoned his U.S. citizenship and came over to the DPRK.

In the letter he said:

If our country were not divided and Seoul of the south, like Pyongyang of the north here, pursued national independent politics, none of our fellow countrymen would have imposed on themselves the unhappy life in a far-off alien land across the ocean, leaving their homeland. Pondering over this distress of our compatriots, which is confined to me, I involuntarily accuse the United States of its Korean policy.

As Your Excellency must know, the division of our nation was forced upon it by the United States and it is due to the wrong Korean policy of the United States that the tragedy of division has been hanging over the Korean Peninsula for over 40 years.

The United States is trying to justify the presence of its forces in south Korea with the slogan of "deterrence to invasion from the north." But there was no invasion from the north at the time when the U.S. was finding itself in a tough spot in the Viet Nam War, at the time of the April 19 uprising that led to the overthrow of the Syngman Rhee regime in south Korea, the days shortly after Park Chung Hee was slain and such chaos as the Kwangju incident in 1980, which could be said to have been the best chances of "southward invasion." On the contrary, we must recall, the DPRK put forward more actively peace proposals and propositions for peaceful reunification in those days.

Witnessing that peaceful construction is being boldly promoted and hundreds of thousands of armymen are taking part in peaceful work in the DPRK, I have already been convinced that "threat from the north" is a fiction and phantom with no persuasive power at all.

The U.S. must know that it cannot justify the presence of its armed forces in south Korea and its colonial domination nor embellish the dictatorial policy and the "two Koreas" strategy with the lie of "deterrence to invasion" from the north.

Today the south Korean people are conscious that the United States is neither a "blood ally" nor a "friendly nation" but unmistakably an aggressor, dominator.

The reality that the anti-U.S. storm is brewing in south Korea, once a place with no anti-U.S. wind, forecasts that, sooner or later, the U.S. may have its "prestige" hurt in face of the world again for the south Korean situation.

It would be favourable for the national interests of the U.S. and good for its "maintenance of honour" for Your Excellency to make a bold decision to fundamentally revise the Korean policy of the U.S., withdraw the U.S. armed forces from south Korea and take hands off it.

Your Excellency ought to exert your influence upon terminating the truculent dictatorial policy and reviving the democratic policy in south Korea, recall such a servant of intervention in other's internal affairs as ambassador to south Korea Lilley and refrain from patronizing and backing the Chun Doo Hwan military dictatorship forsaken by the south Korean people.

Your Excellency should understand the aspiration of our nation for the reunification of the country and do nothing obstructive to the reunification of Korea, no more pursue "cross recognition" or "simultaneous entry into the U.N." of the north and south of Korea, a scenario of Washington, and leave the north and south of Korea to solve their reunification question by means of founding a confederal state. I hope Your Excellency would remain in world history as the first U.S. president to perceive this to be the best way of taking hands off Korea with honour and practice this.

(Continued from page 1)

Then, for what reason should the fourth Lausanne joint meeting still wait for a few months?

Moreover, according to foreign press reports, after an announcement on the fourth Lausanne joint meeting was made the chairman of the south Korean NOC told reporters that they would never change their stand at the forthcoming meeting and even made an "ultimatum" saying that our side would lose everything unless we accept their previous proposal.

The aim of the south Korean side to have the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games only in Seoul and to allocate only two games to our side is nothing but a deceptive trick to give an impression as if Pyongyang where the games are to be held were one of the local cities of south Korea. It is clear to everyone that their stand is not to have the Games co-hosted.

If there is no change in the stand of the south Korean side and it only intends to make an "ultimatum" to our side, a doubt arises naturally what matters will be discussed at the fourth Lausanne joint meeting and why has this meeting to be postponed till July.

After all, it shows that the stand of the south Korean side demands our side obediently accept its adamant previous proposal as it is at the fourth Lausanne meeting, otherwise it will foil the north-south co-hosting of the 24th Olympiad.

The National Olympic Committee of the DPRK has advanced a proposal on co-hosting the Olympiad by the north and the south and made all sincere efforts for its realization in order to obviate the crisis of the Olympic movement and make the 24th Olympic Games truly guarantee peace and detente on the Korean Peninsula and, further, contribute to the cause of Korean reunification.

To tell the truth, if the Olympic co-hosting proposal is put into effect, it will be good for all countries of the world because they will be able to participate in the Games and it will also be good because it will help promote harmony among the peoples and the cause of world peace.

Therefore, there can be no ground to oppose the proposal, if one has no ax to grind.

We determinedly hold once again that for the realization of our Olympic co-hosting proposal, it is imperative to hold eight games in the area of our side without fail and correctly solve all important matters of organizing and operating Olympiad such as the title of the games, composition of the organizing committee, opening and closing ceremonies, etc., in conformity with the actual conditions where the games are shared in the north and the south.

Our National Olympic Committee hopes for an early opening of the fourth Lausanne joint meeting and even if the meeting is delayed, it will do its utmost to promote the preparations for the Olympiad and realize the Olympic co-hosting.

EDITORIAL

Chun's Apr. 13 Decision

Political tensions in south Korea have risen sharply and the chances of a political compromise, which would bring stability, are lower now than at any time since 1981.

This situation is the result of Chun Doo Hwan's Apr. 13 announcement that there will be no constitutional debate at least until after the 1988 summer Olympic Games and that the new "president" will be chosen under the present constitution, which the majority of south Koreans regard as "undemocratic".

In a nutshell, the Apr. 13 decision by Chun reflected his intention to continue with the military-dominated regime even after 1988 when his term expires on the pretext of securing "a peaceful transfer of power" and ensuring that the Olympic Games are a success.

It is ironic that in order to secure "a peaceful transfer of power," Chun has led the country to the brink of civil war, and it is pathetic that the international community is allowing Chun to tarnish the Olympic spirit by using this great event as a feeble excuse to deprive his countrymen of democracy and perpetuate his evil fascist regime.

However, it is highly unlikely that the south Korean people will go along with Chun's plan.

The democratic forces in south Korea have renewed their protest against the Chun junta with even more vigour than before.

Tens of thousands of south Korean students have staged unabated anti-government demonstrations and have been at the forefront of the democratic movement. In addition, hundreds of professors, writers, journalists, artists and religious people have issued statements denouncing the Apr. 13 decision.

Mr. Kim Young Sam, who was elected president of the new opposition Reunification Democratic Party on May 1, denounced the decision as "an anti-people plot to maintain military dictatorship."

In his inaugural speech he stated, "The Apr. 13 decision to postpone constitutional reform will bring misfortune not only to the present government but also to the entire nation. I strongly urge that the decision be rescinded and substantial talks be begun immediately to resolve current political difficulties."

He proceeded to say, "The Seoul Olympics will be no more than a re-enactment of the Berlin Olympics held under the Nazi regime, unless a genuine democracy is established."

He demanded the release of some 2,000 prisoners of conscience and amnesty and restoration of civil rights for Mr. Kim Dae Jung.

He also urged the government to stop resorting to violent political measures and to guarantee the freedom of the press.

Party members of the new opposition party have pledged to struggle "in and out of the national assembly" to realize direct presidential elections and bring about a civilized government.

University professors, viewed as the intelligence of the nation, have said in statements that Chun's decision has severely disappointed the people.

One of the statements warned that the government's refusal to accept the people's urgent demands for constitutional revision will invite irrevocable social chaos.

Religious figures, viewed as the conscience of the nation, have staged prayer and fasting meetings to protest against Chun's dictatorial decision.

In their statements, they demanded the immediate resignation of the present regime and the reintroduction of the people's right to choose their own government – a right which has been denied since Park Chung Hee took power in 1961.

One of the statements by Christian figures called the Apr. 13 decision "a de facto military coup" and an emergency decree in the 1980s.

The consensus of opinion is that the people are ready to fight for democracy to the bitter end and that the government has weakened its credibility even further.

Since Chun's Apr. 13 decision, dire predictions that a cycle of protest and repression lies ahead have become widespread.

After all, his decision has not solved any problems. It has guaranteed that violence will come to south Korea and it has lifted the curtain on the beginning of Chun's downfall.

Chun has made the same mistake as Marcos by allowing the political situation to become so polarized that people power is beginning to mobilize for change.

The writing is on the wall for the Chun junta. It is only a matter of time before south Korea adds itself to the long list of states that have replaced dictatorship with democracy over the last few years.

Let us hope that the costs are not too high.

Seoul's Rejection of N-S Talks Hit

A spokesman for the Commission of Power Industry of the DPRK on Apr. 26 issued a press statement in denunciation of the south Korean authorities' rejection of dialogue and anti-DPRK racket.

Noting that Seoul has rejected all north-south dialogues by bringing forward "talks on hydraulic resources" as a precondition, the spokesman said, "The south Korean side, groundlessly taking issue with our construction of the Kumgangsan Power Station, made it impossible to hold north-south dialogue and tried to shift the responsibility for the failure to hold talks onto others."

On Apr. 27, Li Jong Ryul, head of the delegation of the Red Cross Society of the DPRK issued a similar statement, saying, "It is evident to everyone that such political and military issues as removing the political and military confrontation between the north and south cannot be settled when Red Cross officials or economic officials sit face to face with each other," clearing the fact that the "resumption of the previous talks" brought forward by the south Korean authorities is "sheer sophistry to veil their intention in rejecting the dialogue."

Similar statements were issued by a spokesman for the Ministry of People's Armed Forces, Li Song Rok, head of the DPRK delegation to the north-south economic talks, Choe Ryong Hae, chairman of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea, and Pak Su Dong, chairman of the C.C., the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea.

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